

Washington State Patrol Media Release

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*****For Immediate Release*****

Date: April 26, 2006
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Clerk Cited for Selling Alcohol to Intoxicated Man

On April 26, 2006 at approximately 7:50 am, WSP received a call from a concerned citizen who was reporting a possible DUI driver traveling northbound on SR-503 from NE 119th Avenue.

The citizen described the DUI vehicle as a red Nissan pickup truck he first noticed as it turned onto southbound SR-503 from Caples/ NE 149th Street. The Nissan was having problems weaving between the right and left lanes. The Nissan at one point hit the right curb with the driver over correcting going across the left lane entering the left center turn lane then jerking back to the right. The citizen was afraid if the Nissan wasn't stop an innocent person would be injured or possible killed.

As troopers were attempting to intercept the Nissan it pulled into the Shell Gas Mart located on SR-503 (NE 117th Avenue) at NE 119th Street. The Nissan's driver got out stumbling inside the store. The driver came out a few minutes later with a 12 pack of beer he had just purchased.

The Nissan departed the store and was now traveling northbound on SR-503 with the citizen following. The Nissan continued to weave between both the left and right lanes.

Trooper Dave Ortner located the Nissan parked in the driveway at 17608 NE 122nd Avenue in Battle Ground. Trooper Ortner contacted a resident outside the house asking who was the driver of the Nissan. The resident identified himself as the cousin of the Nissan's driver Jose Perez Garcia, a 51 year old resident of the address in Battle Ground. The cousin advised Garcia just pulled in a few minutes prior to Trooper Ortner's arrival. The cousin asked Garcia to come out to talk with Trooper Ortner.

When Garcia came out of the residence he was noticeably having problem with his balance. Garcia submitted to field sobriety test and subsequently found to be under the influence. Trooper Ortner arrested Garcia and transported him to the WSP Office for a breath test.

Garcia submitted to a breath test which showed he was over the legal limit. Garcia admitted to purchasing beer at the Shell Gas Mart prior to being contacted by Trooper Ortner.

Garcia was cited for DUI and released.

Trooper Greg Riddell and agents from the Washington State Liquor Board contacted the citizen who reported the incident at the Shell Gas Mart. The citizen pointed out the clerk who had sold the beer to Garcia earlier.

Trooper Riddell and the Liquor Board agents contacted the clerk who was identified as Karrie J. Uphoff-Meade, a 43 year old resident of Vancouver. Uphoff-Meade admitted selling the beer to Garcia and didn't feel he was intoxicated at the time. Management at the Shell Gas Mart allowed Trooper Riddell to review the video tape of Garcia purchasing the beer. The video showed Garcia exiting his Nissan in the parking lot stumbling as he tripped on the curb.

Uphoff-Meade was cited for selling alcohol to a person under the influence.

The Liquor Board agents advised Trooper Riddell they planned to conduct an administrative investigation into the selling alcohol to a person under the influence.

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